

Big Pictures and Darryn Lyons witness statement 25 January 2012:

1. Please see the separate document attached which is a summary of Darryn Lyons' career history.
2. The attached document covers Big Pictures brief history too.
3. Big Pictures employ 29 members of staff, plus 152 freelance or casual workers.
4. Big Pictures employ day staff and night staff photographers which are 8 hour shifts. Freelance photographers organise their own self regulating hours.
5. Big Pictures have senior photographers who earn more than the juniors. All staff photographers are on a salary. Freelance photographers work on commission which could be a 50/50 split or 60/40.
6. Big Pictures do not buy directly from a photographer however the general public do send photographs through to the Mr Paparazzi.com website.
7. Big Pictures do not have a code of practice document or manual however the photographers are informed what is expected from them and what they can or cannot do which is based on PCC recommendations.
8. Questions are asked when images are presented to us and if our sales team and management feel they are unhappy with the photos, we would decline submitting them, which has happened on several occasions.
9. Mr Paparazzi.com has Terms and Conditions which I have attached. There was a case recently when a member of the public approached us with photographs of [redacted] The Only Way Is Essex celebrity. He put it in writing that he owned the copyright and brought the photos into the agency for us to sell on his behalf. The Director of Sales felt that he was not telling the truth and rang [redacted] PR agency, Max Clifford Associates, to inform them of this situation. As it transpires the copyright wasn't his to sell and we were pleased her intuition was correct.
10. Freelance photographers are really not Big Pictures responsibility however we go to extreme lengths to assure the images that are provided by them are not deemed inappropriate, and we investigate fully that the information given is correct.
11. Big Pictures receive 3,500 pictures a day and it can be too difficult to put into specifics. Each and every submission of photograph is taken under different circumstances. It is the integrity and scrutiny of our staff that make the decision of submitting or not.

We are a celebrity agency, news and current affairs.

12. I was not aware of the famously faked photograph which was published in the Mirror of the Princess of Wales kissing Dodi al Fayed. We, as a Company, have never digitally altered a photograph. It is never justified.
13.
  - a) The mother of Hugh Grant's baby – this was not a subject we covered in any way.
  - b) Kate McCann – Big Pictures did not have any photographers following Kate McCann during the period in question.
  - c) JK Rowling – The photographer who took the pictures of Ms Rowling and her son was a freelance photographer who worked for a Scottish based agency Big Scotland which was a

subsidiary company. At the time the photographer, working to supply the agency, certainly wasn't approached by Ms Rowling expressing her concern as to any problem with the photograph being taken in a public park; it was a good set of photographs in a pleasant family situation.

First of all the photographs were never offered to be sold. Stock images are put on a data base, roughly 3.5m images, and to our knowledge it was 6 – 12 months before they were downloaded as a stock picture of Ms Rowling as a stock library image which was used to illustrate a story in the Sunday Express. The pictures were never sold; they were downloaded for a new story.

- d) Charlotte Church – Big Pictures and Charlotte Church have had a good working relationship since 2005. There were several “organised” photo shoots which were instigated by Ms Church and the commission was split between the two parties, with Ms Church benefiting greatly financially from the set up of the photo shoots.

There were photo shoots in St Tropez, Monte Carlo and New York, on her own, with Gavin Henson and since with another partner, also with Ms Church's family. At all times Ms Church was fully aware of the business between Big Pictures and herself and we make it our policy to inform the “celebrities” that it is not only a great gain worldwide exposure but in the past a very lucrative exercise for them all financially.

There was never a shot taken up the skirt of Ms Church as mentioned in your document.